

him yet another Happy Birthday, in the full realization that these ninety years have been as much a blessing to us and to the Nation as they have been to him and to his family.

To Max from America: Mazel tov, and God bless.

DESERT CHORALE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a Las Vegas institution. No, I am not referring to the "Strip" and the neon lights, but to a cultural organization that has provided Las Vegas many years of enjoyment, the Desert Chorale. I have had the pleasure of listening to their incredible range of talent for the past 16 years. This spectacular choir made up of volunteers has provided Nevada music lovers countless hours of enjoyment. While Las Vegas and Southern Nevada may be known for big head-liners like Siegfried and Roy, Liberace and Elvis, I can personally attest that thousands of Nevadans have flocked to the Desert Chorale's concerts over the years. From the patriotic to the spiritually uplifting, the sheer beauty of the music they make touches and inspires their audiences.

Now, this great choir from the Silver State will be sharing their talent with a slice of the world audience. The Desert Chorale has been recognized for their musical achievements and have been invited to participate in the Boris Brodt Music Festival in Canada. The festival is entering into its twelfth year and their contributions to Canada's and the world's cultural scene has been highly praised. Not only does the choir have the honor of being invited to this festival, but they were also chosen as the first musical organization of its kind to represent the Western United States. I stand here on behalf of the great state of Nevada, as that state's senior senator, and the United States of America, to congratulate the Desert Chorale on taking part in this prestigious tradition. The Desert Chorale will be an excellent addition to the festival. I am confident from the previous performances I have attended, that they will do a superb job in representing the great heritage of both the state of Nevada and the United States of America.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, July 15, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,530,848,048,686.17 (Five trillion, five hundred thirty billion, eight hundred forty-eight million, forty-eight thousand, six hundred eighty-six dollars and seventeen cents).

One year ago, July 15, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,355,394,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-five billion, three hundred ninety-four million).

Five years ago, July 15, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,336,912,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred thirty-six billion, nine hundred twelve million).

Ten years ago, July 15, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,550,628,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred fifty billion, six hundred twenty-eight million).

Fifteen years ago, July 15, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,330,290,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred thirty billion, two hundred ninety million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,200,558,048,686.17 (Four trillion, two hundred billion, five hundred fifty-eight million, forty-eight thousand, six hundred eighty-six dollars and seventeen cents) during the past 15 years.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 14, 1998, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2282. An act to amend the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 1997, the enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2379. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

H.R. 2544. An act to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions.

H.R. 3223. An act to designate the Federal building located at 300 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building."

H.R. 3453. An act to designate the Federal Building and Post Office located at 100 East B Street, Casper, Wyoming, as the "Dick Cheney Federal Building."

H.R. 4164. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of child custody and visitation orders.

The message also announced that the House has the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 318. An act to require automatic cancellation and notice of cancellation rights with respect to private mortgage insurance which is required as a condition for entering into a residential mortgage transaction, to abolish the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1273) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years

1998 and 1999 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2870) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forest through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2379. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 251 North Main Street in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as the "Hiram H. Ward Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 2544. An act to improve the ability of Federal agencies to license federally owned inventions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3223. An act to designate the Federal building located at 3000 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3453. An act to designate the Federal Building and Post Office located at 100 East B Street, Casper, Wyoming, as the "Dick Cheney Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 4164. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of child custody and visitation orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on July 14, 1998, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 2282. An act to amend the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-506. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of North Miami Beach, Florida relative to the renaming of the Everglades National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-507. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan relative to global warming; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-508. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

Whereas, the business meal deduction is one hundred percent legitimate business expense and should be a one hundred percent legitimate deduction; and

Whereas, two-thirds of business meal deduction users make less than sixty thousand dollars in income per year; and

Whereas, seventy percent of such business meal users typically use low to moderately priced restaurants for business lunches; and

Whereas, restoring the business meal deduction was the number two priority of the one thousand six hundred business delegates

at the last White House Conference on Small Business; and

Whereas, one-fifth of business meal users are self-employed people; and

Whereas, small business owners rely more heavily on the one-on-one relationship offered by a business meal, more so than large corporations with an advertising budget and marketing staff. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to restore the legitimate expense of the business meal to one hundred percent deductibility. Be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana strongly urges the governor of Louisiana and the governors and legislatures of other states to also communicate to the United States Congress that the business meal is a legitimate expense which must be restored to one hundred percent deductibility. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives and to each member of the United States Congress, and to the governors and appropriate officers of the legislatures of all of the states.

POM-509. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 123

Whereas, Arcadia, Louisiana, has been notified by the United States Postal Service that the Postal Service is considering the option of relocating the downtown post office in Arcadia; and

Whereas, the downtown post office in Arcadia has been serving the needs of residents for over sixty years; and

Whereas, in June of 1997, by unanimous vote of the Arcadia Town Council, the downtown district of Arcadia was declared an historic downtown district; and

Whereas, the downtown post office in Arcadia plays an important role in the downtown area and is needed for ongoing revitalization of that area; and

Whereas, there are other options available besides relocation of the downtown post office, including modernization of the existing downtown post office building and development of carrier substations; and

Whereas, such other options should be given close and serious consideration by Congress and the United States Postal Service in lieu of relocation of the downtown post office in Arcadia. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and United States Postal Service to take such actions as are necessary to have other options in lieu of relocation considered for the downtown post office in Arcadia, Louisiana. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, the Postmaster General of the United States, and to the mayor of Arcadia, Louisiana.

POM-510. A joint resolution adopted by Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 51

Whereas, the 1998-99 Governor's budget includes \$85 million, beginning with the 1998-99 fiscal year, that is predicated on the assumption that the United States Congress will act to establish a program under which the Internal Revenue Service and the United

States Treasury Department may offset or withhold a federal tax refund to satisfy legally enforceable, past due state income tax obligations; and

Whereas, there are currently 31 states, including California, and the District of Columbia, that offset state income tax refunds to satisfy delinquent federal tax obligations under a cooperative arrangement between the state tax agency and the Internal Revenue Service; and

Whereas, California has been participating in the state offset arrangement since January 1991 and collected \$27.5 million during the 1995-96 fiscal year and \$28 million during the 1996-97 fiscal year and will collect \$29 million during the 1997-98 fiscal year for the federal government; and

Whereas, permitting federal refunds to be offset for state income tax debts would further existing cooperative efforts between the Internal Revenue Service and state taxing agencies and would be an effective method of collecting delinquent debts owed to the states; and

Whereas, according to the Federation of Tax Administrators, a reciprocal tax program at the federal level would increase state receipts by an estimated \$200 million annually in the early years of implementation. Of this amount, it is estimated that California would receive revenue in the range of \$85 million annually; and

Whereas, a reciprocal program could also benefit federal receipts because it would likely lead the remaining 10 income tax states to participate in the program; and

Whereas, H.R. No. 1730, a measure authored by Congresswoman Nancy Johnson (D-Connecticut), is currently being considered by Congress; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to establish a program to offset or withhold federal tax refunds to satisfy legally enforceable, past due state income tax obligations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Acting Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service; and to the Secretary of the Treasury.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2307. An original bill making appropriation for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-249).

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2176. A bill to amend sections 3345 through 3349 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Vacancies Act") to clarify statutory requirements relating to vacancies in and appointments to certain Federal offices, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-250).

By Mr. CAMPBELL, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2312. An original bill making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-251).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

Jacob Joseph Lew, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

L. Britt Snider, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 2307. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2308. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the medicaid program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2309. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement for the construction and operation of the Gateway Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 2310. A bill to designate the United States Post Office located at 297 Larkfield Road in East Northport, New York, as the "Jerome Anthony Ambro, Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2311. A bill to amend section 201 of title 18, United States Code, to increase prosecutorial effectiveness and enhance public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 2312. An original bill making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. ROBB, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. COATS):